

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 STR-05 NEA-10 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4376
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 12014

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, NI, US
SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL US/NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) STATE 245769, (B) LAGOS 11842, (C) STATE 250505,
(D) LAGOS 10734

1. CHARGE AND ECON COUNSELOR MET WITH MEA ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AFOLABI OCTOBER 19 AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL US ECONOMIC GROUP PRIOR TO PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL HERE. AFOLABI SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY BY OBASANJO TO ORGANIZE THIS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING OF HEAD OF STATE'S WISHES, THE AMERICAN AND NIGERIAN TEAMS SHOULD MEET TO MAP OUT ECONOMIC AREAS FOR CARTER-OBASANJO DISCUSSIONS, REVIEW SUBJECTS OF PRIME INTEREST, AND EXAMINE AREAS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. THIS MEETING MIGHT POSSIBLY LEAD TO THE FUTURE FORMATION OF A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

2. AFOLABI BELIEVES TWO DAYS TO BE THE OPTIMAL DURATION FOR THIS
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CONFERENCE. WE AGREED AD REFERENDUM THAT NOVEMBER 8-9 WOULD BE SUITABLE DATES, ALLOWING SUFFICIENT LEAD AND FOLLOW-UP TIME. AFOLABI AND EMBOFFS SAW THREE MAIN AREAS WHICH MERIT DISCUSSION: INVESTMENT, TRABOYN AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO INCENTIVES AND BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT AND TRADE. SOUTH AFRICAN BOYCOTT PROBLEM SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED WOULD INCLUDE THOSE CITED IN

REFTELS A AND D.

3. AFOLABI SUGGESTED THE PARTICIPATION OF 7 TO 10 REPRESENTATIVES ON EACH SIDE. THE NIGERIAN TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF AFOLABI AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM.

4. REGARDING USG PARTICIPATION, AFOLABI EXPRESSED PARTICULAR HOPE THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER COULD ATTEND. WE CONCUR IN THIS AND FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE AMERICAN TEAM INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES KNOWLEDGEABLE ON TAXATION, REIMBURSABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA), INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND INCENTIVES, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY, AND ENERGY. WE MENTIONED THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE A LEGAL EXPERT ON U.S. BOYCOTT LEGISLATION (REFTEL C) AND AFOLABI AGREED THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

5. WE TOLD AFOLABI WE WOULD ENDEAVOR OBTAIN WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BY MORNING OF OCTOBER 21.
WYMAN

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